

PROPOSAL

For the Better SECURING Our

Wooll against Exportation,

By Working up, and Manufacturing the same.

WITH

The METHOD and MANNER of Setting and Keeping the *POOR* in Constant and Full Employment, throughout the whole *Nation*: Under the Government of such of the Principal *Nobility* and *Gentry* of each *County*, who are willing to undertake so Good and Pious a *WORK*.

By *ROBERT MURRAY*, Gent.

THAT the *Wooll* of this *Nation*, having been always a *Staple Commodity* of the highest Import to the *Publick Welfare*, (the Foundation of our *Foreign Trade* employing Multitudes of Men, Women, and Children, in the Manufacturing thereof) Its Preservation hath been the Continual Care of *Parliaments*.

THAT the *Exportation* of *Wooll*, being of Pernicious Consequence to *England*, has therefore been Prohibited under the severest Penalties.

THAT hitherto all *Laws* made to that Good Intent, have prov'd Ineffectual; so that the *Clandestine Exportation* thereof, is still Practis'd: And, seeing it is more for the Glory of *Government*, by Effectual Remedies, to prevent Mischief, than, by Severe Penalties, to punish it after it is committed; A *Method* is hereby Propos'd, and

Submitted to the Wisdom of *Parliament*; whereby the *Exportation* of *Wooll* may be wholly Prevented, and other Conveniences and Advantages accrue thereby to the *Woollen Manufactory*.

AND whereas, by former Statutes, *Staples* were Establish'd in sundry Places of the Kingdom of *England* and *Ireland*, to prevent the Loss of the *Duties* thereof, by the *Exportation* of *Wooll* without License, when the same was *Transportable*; which *Laws*, tho' long dis-us'd, are still in Force; and, being Reviv'd, would certainly Secure us, as well against the *Transportation* of *Wooll* for the Future, as the said *Duties* and *Customs* then Impos'd; and consequently, all the Mischiefs and Inconveniencies arising to the *Nation* there-from: The Places appointed for this Purpose in *England* and *Ireland*, were as follows, *viz.*

In *ENG-*

In ENGLAND,

New Castle upon Tyne,
York,
Lincoln,
Norwich,
Chichester,

Bristol,
Quinborough,
Winchester,
Westminster,
Canterbury,

Kingston upon Hull,
Boston, And
Carnarvan.

In IRELAND,

Dublin,
Drogheda,
Cork, And
Waterford.

IT is Proposed, That a *Bill* may be brought in, to Revive and Enforce the *Laws of the Staples*; and that all *Wool*, for the future, may be brought to their respective *Staples*, in each of the said Counties; which, for the same Purpose, shall hereafter be settled for the safe Keeping and Securing the said *Wool*, till the same may be dispos'd of to the Manufacturer, at a Marketable Price, under severe Penalties: And therein to empower His Majesty to appoint *A. B. C.* with a convenient Number of such other Persons, as he shall think fit, by *Letters Patents* under the Broad Seal of England, &c. to be *A Royal Company of Staplers*: And for as much as the *Company of Staplers*, were the first Company Incorporated by some of His Majesties Royal Progenitors, that the said *Company of Staplers*, for its Antiquity and Usefulness, may have Precedency of all other Companies; enabling them to manage the same to the best Advantage of Trade, and the Kingdom: All other Ways are vain and fruitless, and signifie no more than to *Hedge in the Cuckow*; since it is evident to every Man's Sense, That 'tis easier to prevent the aforesaid Mischiefs, when the *Wool*, by the *Staples*, is secured in One Hand, than when it is in the Hands and Keeping of many Hundreds.

THAT the Chief, or Head *Staple* be kept at London, whither all the other *Staples* may Refer and Account, by transmitting Quarterly Abstracts of the Growth of all *Wool*, within the Limits of each respective *Staple*, that shall be brought into, or delivered out of every said *Staple*; with their Certificates, Bonds, and Returns, the better to keep an exact Account of the Yearly Product of all *Wool*, what Sold, and to Whom.

THAT all Foreign, *Spanish, Polish*, and other *Wool* Imported, be under the like Regulation of the *Staple*.

THAT all *Cloth*, and other Manufactures made of *Wool*, shall, by the Maker, before Sale thereof, be duly Sealed with both the Weight, and Content, at the next adjacent *Staple*; so that the Quantity of *Wool* Manufactured may be known; and what remains unwrought, by Accounts to be kept with every Person.

THAT the whole Quantity of *Wool*, made by any one in his or her Possession, shall, within Twenty Days after *Sheering*, be Weighed, and Entred at the *Staple*; and thereupon License to be Granted, for bringing the same to the *Staple*; and, without License, none presume to remove their *Wool*, under the Penalty of Forfeiting the same: And that Seven Day Notice be given to the *Staple*, before *Sheering*; And of their Exact Number of *Sheep*.

THAT all *Wool*, kept by the Owners, for their Families use to Manufacture, be likewise Registred at the *Staple*, and plac'd to Account accordingly, they taking a Certificate thereof; and to discharge themselves, as *Clothiers*, by the Weight and Contents of the *Wool* Manufactured.

THAT no Person presume to Buy or Sell any *Wool* at any Place, but at the several *Staples*; and there to be entred upon Account of Buyer and Seller, under a severe Penalty.

THAT no *Staplers*, and *Buyers of Wool*, shall be admitted without License, who are *Annually* to take out the same from the *Staple*; and shall take out Certificates for what Place the said *Wool* is to be deliver'd at, and to whom; and to be bound with Sureties to make a due Return within Days, that the said *Wool* be delivered accordingly.

THAT

THAT all *Combers of Wooll* be under the like Regulation, as *Owners of Wooll* are.

THAT the said Corporation shall be Authorized and Impowered to raise, by Subscription, a competent Sum of Money, to accommodate all Persons, as well *Owners*, as *Clothiers* and *Manufacturers*, with Money and Credit at reasonable Interest, upon Security of all such Goods as shall be brought to the *Staple*, till the same can be disposed of to Advantage; and may charge the same for Payment of any Debt; for which the *Staple* shall be Responsible to the *Assignees*, when Sold, as to the Original Owner: for which Purpose, the said Sum subscribed shall be distributed or deposited in the *Staple*, or Head Town of each County, viz.

THAT if the Country be made Responsible for all *Wooll* Exported, going without License, that shall pass through them Unexamined, and shall not stop and seize the same, with the Offenders and Abettors, as in Cases of Robberies, it might be of good Consequence, to prevent the Mischief occasioned by its Exportation.

THE *Wooll* of each County, gathered into one *Staple*, will become a general *Magazine*, or Store-house; whence the respective *Parishes*, in each County, may be stored with Stock and Materials, to set their Poor on Work, and to keep them in constant and full Employment, on easy Terms; and so they will become Profitable to the Nation, that now are Useless and a Burden; the Poor Tax being appropriated for that Purpose; the *Staples* to be Paid off and Discharged; the Credit given, as the said Tax, shall be brought in and Collected: By which Means, all the *Wooll* in *England* and *Ireland*, will be from time to time Sold, and Annually Worked up, and *Manufactured*, to the Recovery of our *Woolen-Trade* at Foreign Markets, and so no means left to Transport it as formerly; whereby the Poor of other Countries are Employed and Maintained, to the Neglect of our own, very much to the Weakening and Impoverishing the Nation.

AND, for the greater Employment and Consumption of *Wooll*, That all *Wooll-*

Sacks, for the Future, be made of *Wooll*, instead of *Canvas*, which are above a Hundred Thousand Sacks; as the *Spanish Merchants* do import theirs Hither.

THAT all *Tillets*, *Wrappers*, or *Coverings* for *Woollen Manufactures*, and other Commodities, Exported and Carried from Place to Place, may be made of *Wooll*, instead of *Canvas* and *Buckram*; which will work up our *Lambs Wooll*, not permitted to be mixt with *Cloth*, and would alone Employ above Sixty Thousand Families.

THAT the *Poor*, Inhabiting in their respective *Parishes*, be Employed at their own Dwellings; who are to receive out of the said *Stores* and *Magazines*, by the Hands of the *Church-wardens*, and *Overseers* for the *Poor*, Stock for that Purpose; Nevertheless, it will be necessary, that the *Nation* be divided into a 100 *Preincts*, for the Planting of so many *Colonies*, One or Two in each County; where should be Built, after the best Model, an *Hospital* or *Colledge* in every County, for the Reception and Entertainment of *Poor Children*, of both Sexes, *Males* and *Females*; to be taken in, at or about the Age of Seven Years to Fourteen; who should be well and Religiously Educated, and Inured to Labour and Industry: And that one Fifth Part of the *Parochial Stock*, in each County, be set apart and apply'd for This, or some such Use; which may well enough be done by the *Stock* of so many *Parishes* United in the same County; which cannot be done by any One *Parish* alone: And, till this can be done, there are *Towns* in many Parts of *England*, and *Wales*, where are Houses Untenantanted, to be had on easy Terms, that may serve as well for the present, as, viz. *Ipswich*, *Sundwich*, *Southampton*, &c. which are much Deserted by the Inhabitants, by reason of the great Decay of *Trade* in those Parts.

THE Employment of the People, in the said *Colonies*, should consist in the *Tilling*, *Planting*, and *Enclosing* of *Wast-Grounds*, and *Derelique Lands*, to be obtain'd from the *Crown*, where they are not already Granted away; and to be Confirm'd by *Act of Parliament*: wherein Care must be taken to turn them to such Employment, as may no ways hinder the Improvement of
other

other *Manur'd Lands*, or lower the *Farms* and *Rents* of the *Landed Men* and *Free-Holders*; as the *Sowing of Hemp, Flax, &c.* The *Females* to be Employed in the *Spinning of Wooll, Flax, and Hemp*; the *Making of Bone-Lace and Netts, &c.* The *Males*, in the *Making of Twine, Cordage, Cabling, Sail-Cloth*, and other *Useful Trades*, as in *Shipping*; especially such *Crafts*, as are proper and fit for the *Commencing and Carrying on the Fishing-Trade* upon our own Coast. *New-Found-Land*, (now in a manner lost to the *French, &c.*) which alone, if Enacted, and Encouraged, would bring in to the *Nation*, by the *Product of our Fishing-Trade*, within a few Years, at least, *Seven or Eight Millions per Annum.*

THAT *One Male, and One Female*, drawn out of each *Parish* Annually, and sent to the said *Colonies*, will make *Ten Thousand Males*, and as many *Females per Annum*: During the *First Three Years*, they should be Taught to *Read, Write, and Arithmetick* well, at spare Hours, and be Employ'd the Rest of the Day, as aforesaid; which is much better, than to be continually Poring on their *Books*: The *Fourth Year*, such of the *First Class*, of both *Sexes*, as are *Fourteen Years* of Age, or upwards, to be Drawn out, and Dispos'd of; The *Males* to *Sea*, or such *Trades* as depend on it; The *Females* may be Dispos'd of into *Good Families*, in each *County*, amongst the *Gentry*, and *Better Sort*; and so, *Communibus annis*: who, by their Education in these *Colledges*, will be better qualify'd to Serve; and consequently, be sought for by many: But are to be still *Retainers* to the said *Colonies* and *Colledges*, till They are Dispos'd of in *Marriage*; And the *Males*, till They arrive to the Age of *Twenty-Two Years*: So that, within a few

Years, after this *Settlement*, there may be Drawn out for the Service of His Majesty's Navy Royal, *Ten Thousand Men*; and so Annually, as oft as there shall be Occasion, without Pretling.

THAT the *Government* and *Over-sight* of this whole Affair of the *POOR*, should be in the *Nobility*, and Chief of the *Gentry*, joyn'd with the Right Reverend the *Lord Bishop* of the *Diocese*, and some of the *Dignify'd Clergy*, and Others of greatest Eminency; being such as are willing to undergo the Trouble of so Good and Pious a WORK; which will be both a Pleasure and Diversion to Them: who are also to have the Nomination and Choice of all *Officers* whatsoever.

THIS, with the *National Bank*, under the Care, Inspection, and Controul of *Legal Magistracy*, and *Publick Authority* (lately Published by the Proposer, being Incorporated with the *Royal Fishery of England*) would employ all the Idle Hands in the Nation; multiply and encrease the number of Seamen, and infallibly augment the Stock and Trade thereof, at least *Thirty Millions per Annum, Communibus Annis*, to the End of the World: and consequently, turn the Scale and Balance of Trade, to the great Encrease of Gold and Silver, and constant Employment of the Mint; whereby we shall be enabled not only to Work up, Export and Vend our said Manufactures, at Foreign Markets, much cheaper than other Nations, to the great Increase of our Trade; but may, in a little Time, totally beat them out of the Competition they now hold with us therein.

All which is Humbly Offer'd to the Wisdom and Consideration of the Honourable HOUSE of COMMONS.

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